



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

Department for the Aging

Julie Christopher, Commissioner

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COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA
Department for the Aging
Julie Christopher, Commissioner

MEMORANDUM

TO: Executive Directors
Area Agencies on Aging

FROM: Ellen Nau

DATE: September 26, 2006

SUBJECT: National Family Caregiver Support Program

Virginia Caregiver Coalition

The Virginia Caregiver Coalition will meet on Tuesday, October 10, 2006 in the Virginia Department for the Aging Conference Room. Video conferencing will be available from Mountain Empire Older Citizens, Inc. in Big Stone Gap, Virginia. All NFCSP coordinators from AAAs are invited to attend this meeting. Information sharing on potential Federal and State legislation affecting caregivers is on the agenda. Best practices in caregiving programs as well as activities for November, National Family Caregiver Month, will be discussed. The Abused Caregiver project and SeniorNavigator listing will receive attention from the coalition. If a representative from your agency would like to join the coalition for this meeting, please contact, Ellen Nau at Ellen.Nau@vda.virginia.gov.

Kinship Care Legislation

The status of Guardianship Assistance Promotion and Kinship Support Act, H.R. 3380, legislation designed to amend Part E of title IV of the Social Security Act to provide Federal support and assistance to children living with guardians and kinship caregivers, and for other purposes, was referred to the House Education and Workforce Subcommittee on Select Education on May 1, 2006. The bill was introduced July 1, 2005.

King Foundation Grant

Radford University, a member of the Kinship Care Initiative Statewide Task Force and Information Network, received a grant from the King Foundation on behalf of its partners, RU School of Social Work, Pulaski County Partners Coalition, New River Valley Agency on Aging, Virginia Tech Family Studies, Pulaski County Schools. This grant was awarded to initiate *The Life Story Project*, a therapeutic group setting to explore issues commonly experienced by middle school children who are raised by grandparents through the creation of individual autobiographies. This project will document the natural history of a group of 8-10 middle school students by creating individual autobiographies that include narratives, photographs, and drawings that depict their lives as children being raised by grandparents. These autobiographies will be scanned and saved for each group participant on a CD-ROM.

The Life Story Project group will meet monthly for 8, 1.5 hour sessions during the 06-07 school year, and will be led by two art teachers and a therapist with child group work experience. A graphic artists/photographer will assist with design issues.